

## MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**June 6, 2005 (*approved 9/12/2005*)**

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:00 p.m. in Room 436 of the State House, Augusta. Members present were Jack Berry, Representative Patricia Blanchette, Jay Bradshaw, Stephan Bunker, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Robert Gardner (for Art Cleaves), Geoffrey Maker, Harty Norris, Chief Jethro Pease, Charles Soltan, David Wacker, Steve Willis and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent included John Cannon, Edward Johnston and Bill Williams. Michael Albert, Senator Bruce Bryant, Representative Richard Brown, Representative Robert Duplessie and Senator Richard Nass were excused from today's meeting. Guests of the Fire Commission included Representative Gary Plummer of Windham, Alex McPhedran of the Maine State Federation of Firefighters, Steve McGrath and Andy Titus from Tire Warehouse; Richard Taylor and Mark Chipman from the State Fire Marshal's Office; and Richard Warfel and Ron Green of the Professional Firefighters of Maine.

***A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Steve Willis, to accept the minutes of May 2, 2005 as amended.*** The motion passed unanimously. The minutes will be amended by the following two changes:

1. page 2, first paragraph- change *May* to *June*
2. page 2, fourth paragraph- add *Business, Research and Economic Development*

The Fire Commission welcomed Stephan Bunker as its newest member. Steve is the current operations manager and staff development specialist at the Maine Emergency Services Communication Bureau (9-1-1), Maine Department of Public Safety and will represent the Governor's Office.

The Fire Commission recognized Richard Taylor and Mark Chipman from the State Fire Marshal's Office. Mark is one of three interns at the SFMO this summer.

Steve McGrath and Andy Titus, representing Tire Warehouse, donated a print entitled "No Greater Love" to the Fire Commission following a short presentation recognizing Maine's fire service. Tire Warehouse will also distribute t-shirts depicting the print to Maine's fire departments. "No Greater Love" was originally created for the New York Fire Department following September 11, 2001. Members suggested the print be displayed in a number of different locations including the Criminal Justice/Public Safety Committee room, and later be permanently hung in the future state training facility.

## Committee Reports

The Training Facilities committee distributed a redraft of the legal advertisement. The committee is working with Joseph Ostwald, Director of Construction with the Bureau of General Services on developing the request for qualifications. The committee reports they are now moving in the right direction and hope to begin interviews by midsummer. Darrell Cyr of the Bangor FD has joined the selection committee.

The Traffic Direction committee reported the training requirement was eliminated in the final version of L.D. 1337 ***"An Act To Enhance the Safety of Fire and Emergency Medical Service Personnel"***. The committee recognized Lt. Anne Schaad of the Maine State Police for her assistance and efforts on behalf of L.D. 1337.

The Spring 2006 Conference committee met earlier and summarized their objectives and suggestions. The committee suggested the conference be expanded to two days at the Augusta Civic Center and the numbers of vendors be increased to 30 or 40. Vendors would be charged a fee. The Fire Commission would also partner with the Maine Municipal Association. The committee suggested the following preliminary agenda:

### DAY ONE

AM- Registration

Caucus to discuss issues of importance to first responders etc.

LUNCH on floor with the vendors

PM- Break out classes (8)

BREAK ½ hour with the vendors

PM- Break out classes (8)

DINNER on the floor with the vendors

RECEPTION with legislators

### DAY TWO

AM- Coffee/Danish on the floor with the vendors

Keynote speaker

Questions and answers

***A motion by Steve Willis, seconded by Jack Berry, that the Fire Commission move ahead with the Spring 2006 Conference committee's initial proposal as presented and schedule the 2006 Spring Conference at the Augusta Civic Center on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 and Wednesday, March 22, 2006. The motion further states the committee considers additional options for the second day-including other speakers and plans for the afternoon.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Recruitment and Retention committee reported the survey has been mailed to all Maine fire chiefs.

## **Old Business**

Fire Commission members were updated on bills still before the 122<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, which is still in session. Members were updated on the status of the Fire Commission's funding due to the 5% budget cuts. Discussion also included the issues of response districts and dispatch centers across the state. Members inquired whether this was a local control issue and whether the Fire Commission should get involved. Other members said it was the responsibility of the Fire Commission to bring forward ideas, save money and give better service to the people. Members agreed it was important to talk with county commissioners and other local leaders.

The line-of-duty death checklist was distributed to members and will be added to the Fire Commission website. The checklist will be revised to include the Department of Labor. A suggestion was to include a copy of the revised checklist in the Maine Firefighter.

Members discussed updating the Fire Commission's bylaws. Chair Cammack appointed Jethro Pease (chair), Charlie Soltan and Jack Berry to serve on the Bylaws committee. The committee will look several issues including quorums and attendance and report back to the Fire Commission.

## **New Business**

Members were informed that Vermont was the second state to pass a fire-safe cigarette law.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, a retirement party was held for Al Godfrey, former Vice Chair of the Fire Commission, at the Readfield Town Hall. Mr. Godfrey was a charter member of the Fire Commission and resigned in 2004.

Members learned the Cole Foundation was looking for ideas to assist Maine fire departments. Gary Cole and the Cole Foundation was awarded the Fire Commission's Best Practice Award in 2003. The Best Practice Award is given to those individuals, fire/rescue departments, agencies, organizations, communities and others who display the best qualities, show initiative and creativity, and encourage and perform safe, healthful practices for themselves and others in Maine. The Cole Foundation has distributed almost 300 thermal imaging cameras to Maine fire departments.

Fire Commission members agreed to host a meeting to discuss the 2005 legislative session. Members stated the importance of reviewing the successes and failures of the past legislative session. Members also said it was important to identify what worked, what failed and to improve the Fire Commission's performance in the future. Members were asked to invite members of their respective organizations, as well as representatives from law enforcement. Fire Commission members agreed to hold this meeting on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 1pm and will replace the regular July meeting.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:48p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette (Staff)

Meeting Schedule

Monday, July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Public Safety Building	1-3pm
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*No Meeting Scheduled in August*

Monday, September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Public Safety Building	1:00pm
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Monday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Public Safety Building	1:00pm
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